GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2457
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Impact of International Trade Agreements
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal;Rao (Avnthi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the recent International Trade Agreements under Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are likely to deny Indian exporters easy access to these markets;

b) if so, the remedial steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

c) whether the agreements under TPP and TTIP are expected to go much beyond the WTO;

d) if so, whether the Government intends to raise the issue in the Nairobi Ministerial Meeting of WTO; and

e) whether the Government is trying to acclerate the ongoing negotiations under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c): The negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) have been concluded but the agreement is not yet ratified for implementation by the participating countries. The Members of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are currently engaged in negotiations. The government is continuously monitoring the developments with regard to Trans-
Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in close consultation with industry stakeholders.
(d): No Madam, the government does not intend to raise the issue of Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in the Nairobi Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
(e): During the 27th ASEAN Summit held on 22 November, 2015 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the Leaders of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries in their joint statement instructed the Ministers and negotiators to further intensify their efforts towards the conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations in 2016. A copy of this statement is enclosed at Annexure 1.
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Annexure 1
Joint Statement on the RCEP Negotiations
22 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1. We, the Heads of State/Government of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Participating Countries (ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand) reviewed the progress of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

2. We recall our Joint Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the RCEP and the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP, which lay the foundation for and the spirit in the conduct of RCEP negotiations since its commencement in May 2013.

3. We welcome the substantial progress made to date. Following the breakthroughs achieved by our Ministers, substantive negotiations on trade in goods, trade in services and investment have intensified. Text-based negotiations have also intensified.

4. With over half of the world's population and almost 30 per cent of the world's output and trade, RCEP offers immense potential to improve the standard of living for billions of people. We resolve to ensure that the RCEP delivers on its potential to serve as a growth driver and a key pathway for broader economic integration in the region.

5. We instruct our Ministers and negotiators to further intensify their efforts and we look forward to the conclusion of the RCEP negotiations in 2016, contributing significantly to regional and global economic integration, providing for equitable economic development, and strengthening economic cooperation.
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